

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. <sup>FG:</sup> 66-37-1

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

**Maryland Historic Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic The Bellman House

and/or common

**2. Location**

Street & number: 4609 Amherst Road x not for publication

City, town: The City of College Park \_\_\_ vicinity of 5<sup>th</sup> Cong. District

State: Maryland County Prince George's County

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	x occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
x building(s)	x private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	x private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	x yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	x not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing address of all owners)

Name: Bob and Charlotte Roberson

Street & number: 4609 Amherst Road

Telephone no: 301-799-0623

City, town: The City of College Park

State & zip code: Maryland, 20740

**5. Location of Legal Description**

Courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Liber

Street & number folio

City, town State

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys: None**

Title

Date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

Depository for survey records

City, town State

## 7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Built in 1933 by H. C. "Curly" Byrd, the Robersons' house at 4609 Amherst Road was originally and predominantly sided with brick, though flagstone was installed around the front door. The front door is located at the center of the house's front side. Walking through the front door, one enters a hall that leads to the living room on the right, to a bathroom straight back, to the upstairs, and to the dining room on the left. The living room has two windows facing out to the front yard, two windows facing out to the right side of the house, and a fire place that is situated on the right side of the house. A porch, which the Robersons glassed-in in order to create an additional winterized room, is located in the back of the living room and faces out to their back yard. The dining room has two windows facing the front yard, two windows facing the left side of the house, and a fire place that is situated on the left side of the house. The first floor bathroom was originally the house's pantry that the Robersons converted into a half-bath. To create the first-floor bathroom, the Robersons erected a wall where the pantry's door once existed in the kitchen. The kitchen is located behind the dining room. The kitchen has a back door, two windows facing the back and left sides of the house, and a staircase that leads down to the basement.

Though no structural changes have been made to the basement, the Robersons installed plaster walls throughout the basement to cover up their water pipes and to make the area more livable. The basement now has a room that acts as Mr. Roberson's office. There was also a toilet in the original basement around which the Robersons also erected plaster walls.

To access the second floor of the house, one must climb the stairs that are located in the front hall. The second floor has a large hallway with a window looking to the back yard of the house. On the opposite end of the hallway sits a full bathroom with a window that looks out to the front yard. Moreover, on the ceiling in the middle of the second floor hallway is a pull-down staircase to access the unfinished attic, which is currently used as a storage area. The master bedroom is on the right side of the house with a dormer window overlooking the front yard. On the left side of the house there is a small bedroom that also has a dormer window overlooking the front yard. A small den with a window facing out to the right side of the house is adjacent to the small bedroom, and a sleep porch is behind the den. The sleep porch has several windows that face the back yard.

There is a driveway to the right of the house that leads to a garage set back from the house. Originally a brick garage, the Robersons replaced the garage with wood paneling painted dark brown.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance – Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology– prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology – historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/ government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates:

Builder/Architect:

Check:

Applicable Criteria:

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Applicable Exception:

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance:

☐ National ☐ State ☒ Local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Mr. Bellman was the original owner of the 4609 Amherst Road house, and Bob and Charlotte Roberson bought a house from him in 1988. Erected in 1933, the house maintains local significance because it was built by the widely known and highly respected H. C. "Curly" Byrd, then the President of the University of Maryland. Interestingly, Bob Roberson was formerly a Professor of Microbiology at the University of Maryland.

The house, while experiencing some internal changes, has had no major structural changes made to its original frame. As the only major change to the house has been the conversion of the first-floor pantry to a half-bathroom, the house maintains its overall integrity. Moreover, regarding its setting and landscape integrity, the vista and landscaping surrounding the house has remained similar to its original state.

Several houses in the area were built based upon the same design as the Robersons' house, and together these houses are significant representations of 1930s middle-class suburban development. As Kenneth Jackson has explained, between 1929 and 1933 there was very little suburban development, so the Robersons' house on Amherst Road can be regarded as part of a new phase in suburban development. The house is also representative of the "simpler" house design and the so-called Comfortable House design, as opposed to the Victorian house design, that were both first popularized at the beginning of the twentieth century. Moreover, in describing houses designed like the Robersons' home, Robert Jones insists, "The house can best be described as a modern interpretation of the English Tudor Style." Continuing he explains, "The high-pitched roof, with its long sweep, is interrupted by the sharp peak of the front entrance gable and by the well-proportioned dormers at either side." (p. 185) According to Virginia and Lee McAlester, the English Tudor style house was popular during the 1920s and the 1930s. The McAlesters further note that these houses were typically constructed with brick and stone veneers such as the Robersons' Amherst Road house. (p. 358)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.  
 Mark, Clifford Edward. *The American Family Home: 1800-1900*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986.  
 Jackson, Kenneth. *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1985.  
 Gowans, Alan. *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1986.  
 Jones, Robert. *Authentic Small Houses of the Twenties*. New York: Dover Publications, 1987.  
 Brooke Orr's personal interview with Charlotte and Bob Roberson, February 1998.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle Scale \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle Scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References: (do not complete UTM references)

Verbal boundary description and justification

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

State	Code	County	Code
State	Code	County	Code

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Brooke Orr, Graduate Student at The George Washington University

Organization: GWU's Historic Preservation Class, History 278

Date: 3-2-98

Street & Number: 1921 Kalorama Road, N.W.

Telephone: 202-319-3156

City/Town: Washington, D.C.

State: DC

The Maryland Historical Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights

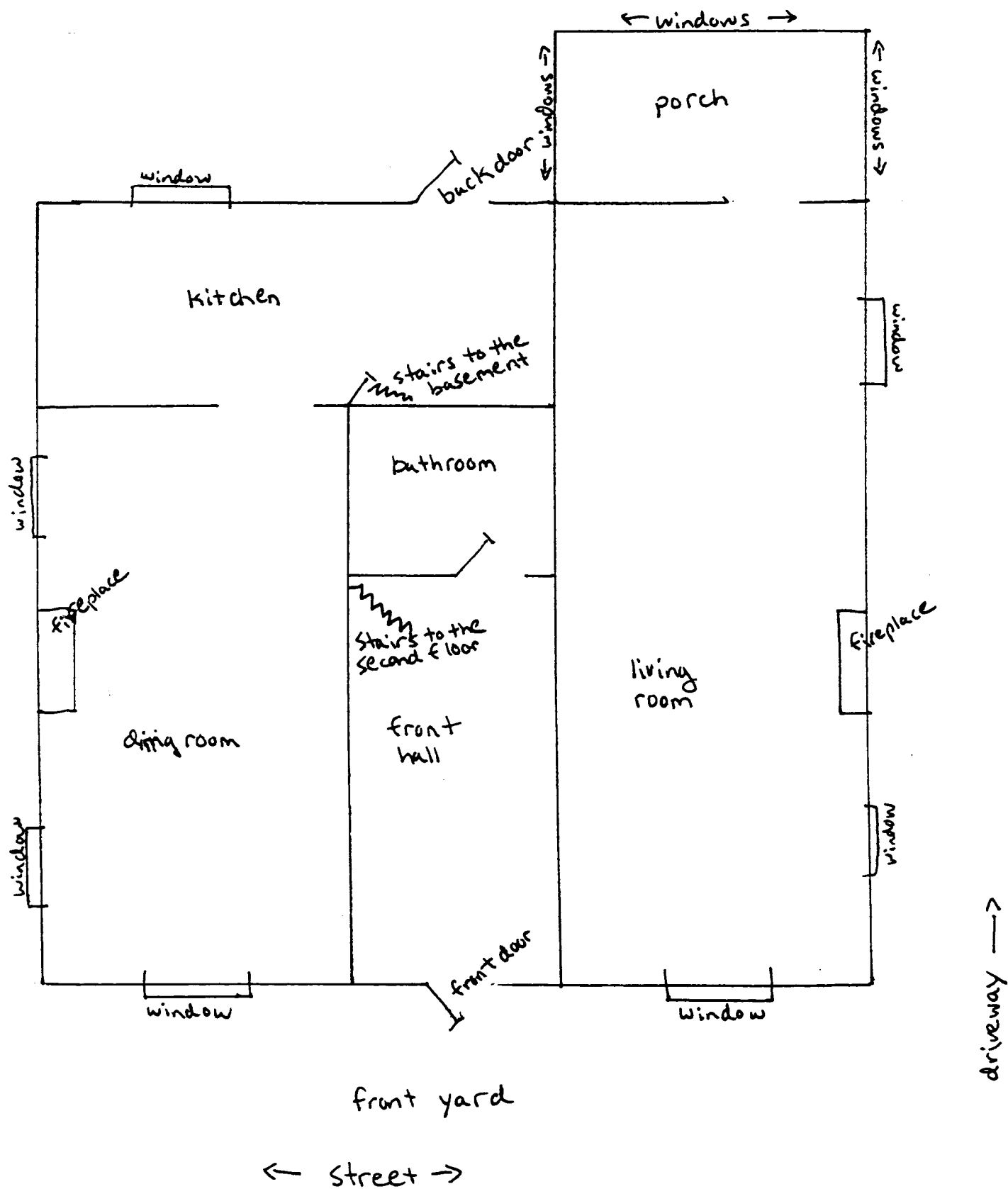
Return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, MD  
 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

4609 Amherst Road  
First Floor

PG: 66-37-1

garage

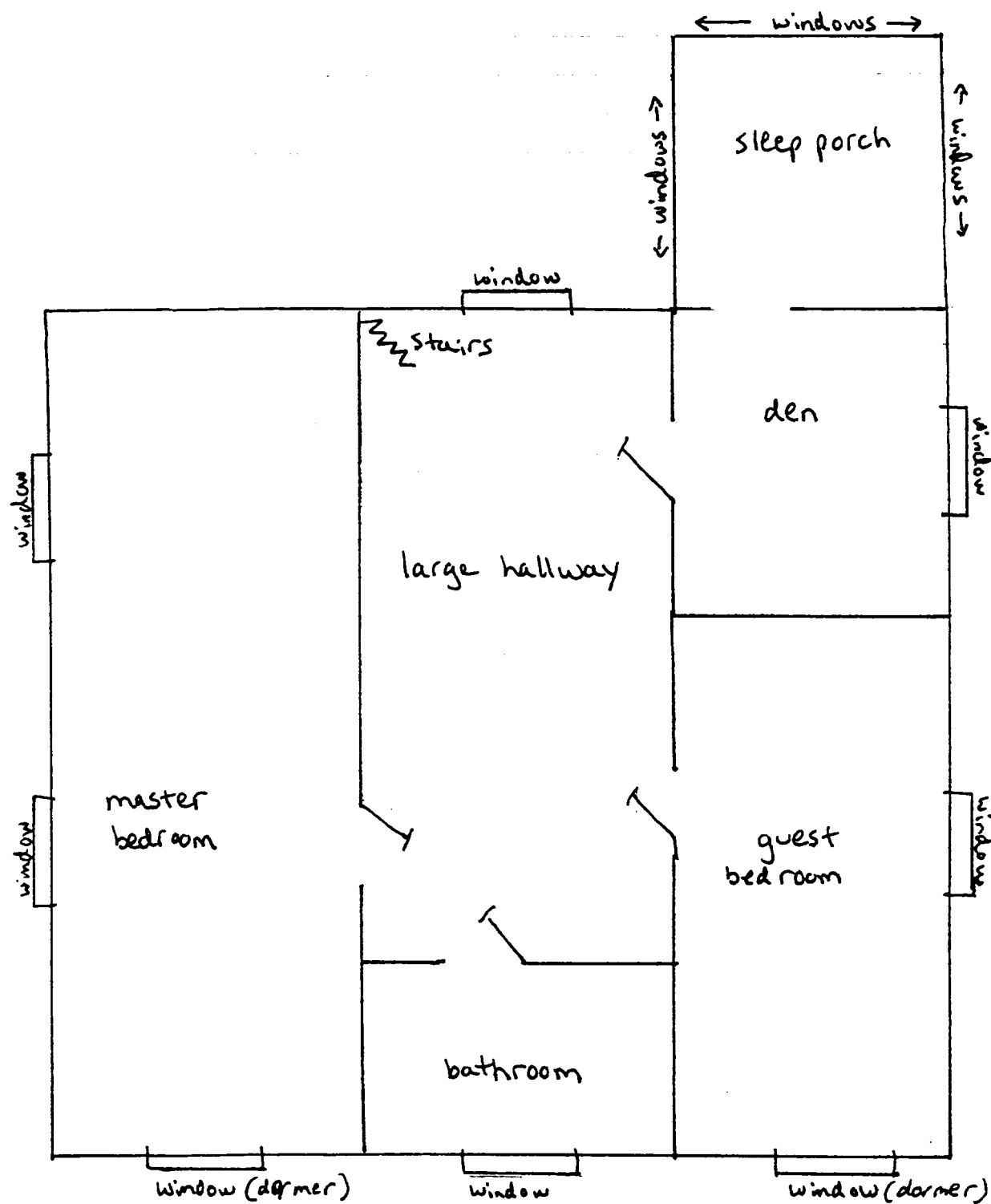
back yard



PG 66-37-1

garage

back yard



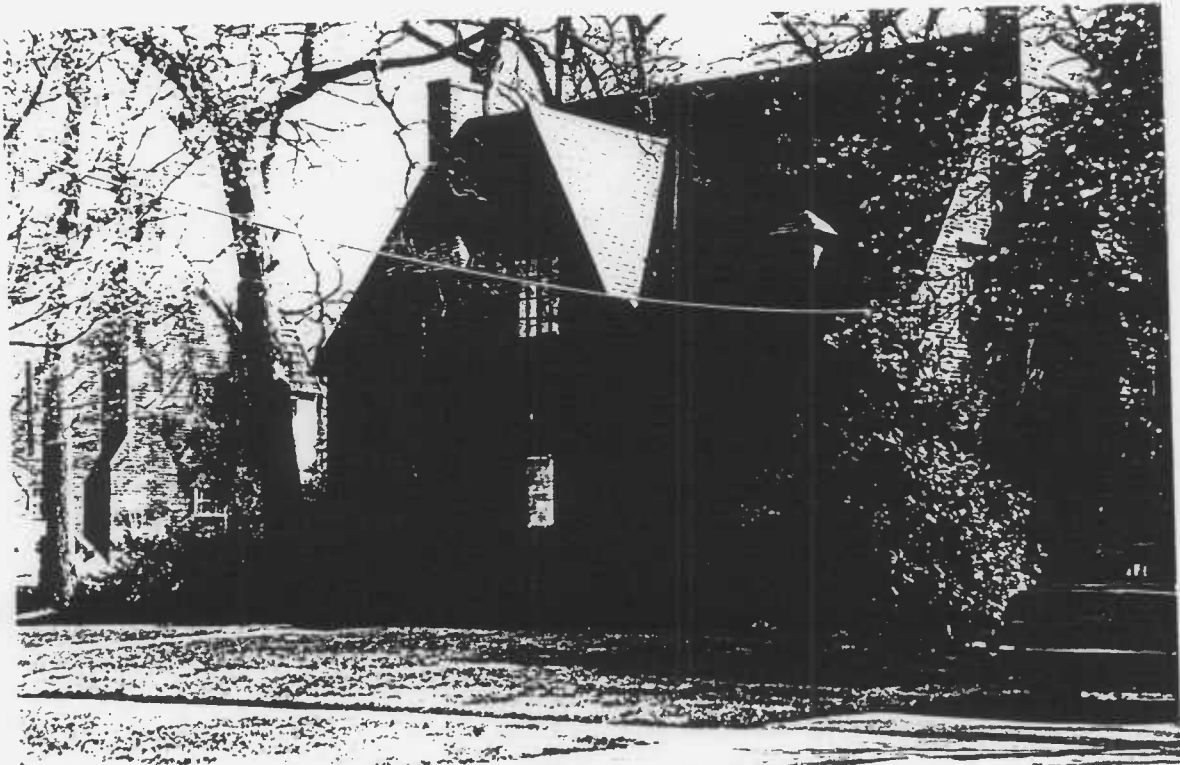
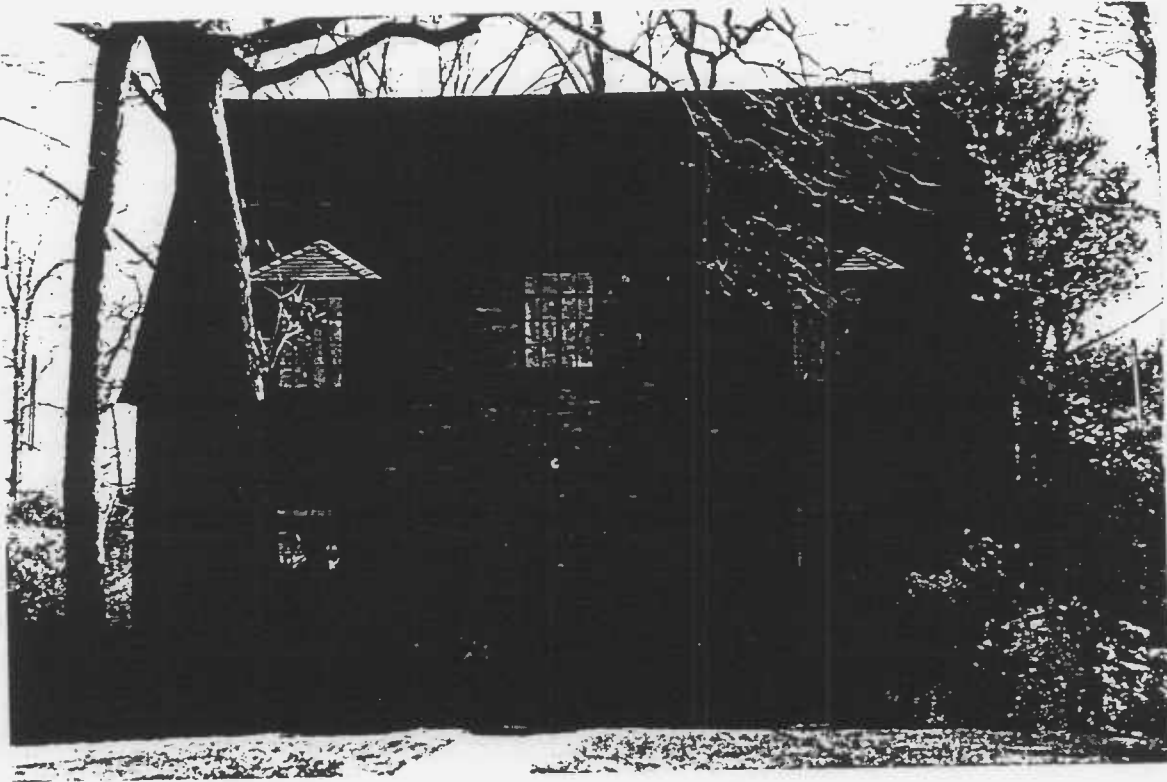
driveway  $\rightarrow$

front yard

← Street →

4609 Amherst Road

PG: 66-37-1





4609 Amherst Road

PG: 66-37-1

